

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 9, 20, 48, 53, and 61 have been amended. Claims 5 and 38 have been canceled. Claims 72 and 73 have been added. Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 37, and 39 to 73 are thus pending.

The amendments herein to the claims only clarify the subject matter of the present invention and are not made for purposes of patentability. No subject matter has been disclaimed, and the amendment of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue identical or similar claims in other patent applications that are identical or similar to the claims amended in this response.

Applicants have gratefully noted that claims 5, 7, 9, 38 to 40, and 71 have been considered as allowable subject matter if rewritten in an independent form.

Claims 1, 9, 20, 48, 53, and 61 have been amended so as to clarify Applicant's invention.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended so as to include all the limitations of original claim 5. Since claim 5 has been considered as allowable, new claim 1 is now allowable.

Consequently, claim 5 has been deleted.

Claim 9 has been amended so as to specify that the temperature is of about 100 to 180°C. Support for new claim 9 is found in Protocol C, on page 9 of the specification.

Claim 20 has been amended so as to include all the limitations of original claim 38. Since claim 38 has been considered as allowable, new claim 20 is now allowable.

Consequently, claim 38 has been deleted.

Claim 53 has been rewritten in the format of a depending claim. New claim 53 now depends upon new claim 1, which is allowable since including all the limitations of allowed original claim 5.

Claim 61 has been rewritten in the format of a depending claim. New claim 61 now depends upon new claim 20, which is allowable since including all the limitations of allowed original claim 38.

Original claim 7, considered as allowable by the Examiner, has been rewritten in the format of an independent claim and has been inserted as new claim 72. New claim 72 includes all the limitations of original claim 7.

Original claim 9, considered as allowable by the Examiner, has been rewritten in the format of an independent claim and has been inserted as new claim 73. New claim 73 includes all the limitations of original claim 9.

A minor editing modifications has been brought to claim 48.

#### **35 U.S.C 102(b) Rejections**

**Sverdrup**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 53 to 55, 57 to 63, and 65 to 68 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sverdrup. This objection has been considered but is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Since these claims all depend directly or indirectly upon new independent claim 1 or new independent claim 20, which are allowable, the rejection is thus rendered moot.

The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 53 to 55, 57 to 63, and 65 to 68 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

**Fisher et al.**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14 to 17, and 53 to 68 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fisher et al. This objection has been considered but is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Since these claims all depend directly or indirectly upon new independent claim 1 or new independent claim 20, which are allowable, the rejection is thus rendered moot.

The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 1 to 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14 to 17, and 53 to 68 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

**35 U.S.C 103(a) Rejections**

**Fisher et al.**

The Examiner has rejected claims 12, 13, 18 to 37, and 41 to 52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisher et al. This objection has been considered but is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Since these claims all depend directly or indirectly upon new independent claim 1 or new independent claim 20, which are allowable, the rejection is thus rendered moot.

The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 12, 13, 18 to 37, and 41 to 52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**Fisher et al. and Mukai et al.**

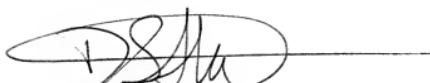
The Examiner has rejected claims 69 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisher et al. in view of Mukai et al. This objection has been considered but is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Since these claims all depend indirectly upon new independent claim 1, which is allowable, the rejection is thus rendered moot.

The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claims 69 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In view of the foregoing Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner deem it beneficial to discuss the application in greater detail, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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